

NEGROES IN CALIFORNIA*

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THE American Negro constitutes a very virile segment of the war-motivated mass migration. The 1930 census showed that Los Angeles City had a Negro population of 38,894; the 1940 census, 63,774. In 1942 a traction company, needing replacements in its section hand gangs, imported 3,100 Negroes in two months. This was the beginning of the great push. The crying need for manpower in the Pacific Coast region, and the President's Executive Order 8802 eliminating racial discrimination in war industries for the duration of the war, stimulated mass migration of the Negro at an excessive rate, not only to Los Angeles, but to the Bay Area.

The most serious problem at present facing all newcomers is the critical housing shortage. The Negro, of course, faces an even greater plight in this respect. Racial restriction covenants, written in or implied, force him to live in a comparatively small area which has been, and is even now more rapidly becoming, a blighted zone. On every hand over-crowding and congestion is becoming the rule rather than the exception. The usual mal-social factors of over-crowding, delinquency, disease, and group exploitation have come to California, too, as the hand-maidens of mass migration.

From the extreme repression to a newly-found chance for expression will be the attitude with which our schools will have to deal. Teachers will find it necessary, while endeavoring to teach the English language, to know and understand the "jive slanguage" and the reasons for it. Many of the children of our Negro newcomers have little or no formal education. They are over-age and under-educated. Attendance officers are more than busy in trying to "catch-up" with these newly arrived children. They are on the streets, rapidly becoming a part of the new crop of "delinquents," because they are totally unaware of a compulsory school law.

THREE "S'S" MUST SUPPLEMENT THREE "R'S"

Booker T. Washington has left for us a descriptive dictum symbolizing the condition with which schools of California must gear their educational sights: "You can't keep a man in a ditch unless you stay there with him!" Thus, the disadvantages and restrictions of our backward communities have been transplanted into our more favorable regions. What the results will be will depend upon the sympathies, understanding, and techniques of our greatly strained educational system. Our analysis of these conditions must enable us to differentiate between effects of previous bad environments and innate racial char-

acteristics. More rigid and severe discipline, and "welfare" schooling with the emphasis on punishment, will not be the balm to heal the attitudinal hurts of these confused and frustrated children who are already running away from the four fears. In our effort to teach the standard three "R's," we must apply the three "S's": *Sympathy, Sense of Humor, and Sincerity.*

EAST AREA HEALTH PROGRAM OF
LOS ANGELES*

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THE East Area Health program of Los Angeles is a tuberculosis case-finding program for both tuberculosis suspects and the apparently healthy in the Negro population. In 1939, the Los Angeles Tuberculosis and Health Association set aside one-tenth of its income to extend diagnostic facilities combined with emphasis on health education, where the need was greatest. The area served has a population of more than 50,000.

Our objectives were to detect as many cases of tuberculosis as possible in the area and to assist in getting them under treatment; to teach health, with particular emphasis on tuberculosis, to both physicians and layman; by means of physical examinations to uncover other diseases and thereby improve the health of the community; to increase our knowledge of the racial characteristics in tuberculosis; to assist in the control of syphilis by providing Wassermann tests, and to establish a feeling of goodwill in the community toward the Tuberculosis Association.

To carry on the work the facilities of an existing health clinic near the area were obtained. The center serves individuals with small incomes, and is held in high esteem in the community.

*From the Los Angeles County Tuberculosis and Health Association.

Synopsis of a paper read before the California Tuberculosis and Health Association in a symposium on Tuberculosis in Minority Groups, Los Angeles, March 29, 1944.

MEXICANS AND TUBERCULOSIS**

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TUBERCULOSIS is the leading cause of death among Mexicans in this state. According to the California State Department of Public Health, 18.5 per cent of all Mexican deaths are due to tuberculosis. But only 4.5 per cent of all the deaths for the population at large are caused by this disease. Thus, we are informed that tuberculosis causes four times as high a propor-

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